

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

STEVEN ASIR THOMAS,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

CASE NO. C16-1147-JCC

ORDER GRANTING
RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO
SEAL

This matter comes before the Court on the Government's unopposed motion to seal (Dkt. No. 27). Having thoroughly considered the parties' briefing and the relevant record, the Court finds oral argument unnecessary and hereby GRANTS the motion for the reasons explained herein.

The Court starts from the position that "[t]here is a strong presumption of public access to [its] files." W.D. Wash. Local Civ. R. 5(g)(3); *see also Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978). However, documents filed in support of a dispositive motion should remain under seal when a party can "articulate[] compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings" that outweigh the public's interest in access. *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006).

The Government requests that one exhibit to its answer in opposition to Petitioner Steven Thomas's motion to vacate, set aside, and correct sentence remain sealed. (Dkt. No. 27 at 1.) The

1 Government contends that the “attachment contains sensitive and personal information.” (*Id.*)
2 The Court finds that these are compelling reasons to keep the exhibit sealed and agrees that it
3 should remain sealed. Therefore, the motion to seal is GRANTED.

4 DATED this 25th day of January 2017.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Coughenour", is written over a horizontal line.

John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE